

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 47, 66, and 74-75, and have canceled claims 1-4, 6-9, 13-15, 17-19, 21-22, 25-48, 63-65, and 70-75, during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that said amended and canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue said amended and canceled claims, and other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Examiner objected to claim 5 because of a quotation mark in the last line in claim 5. In response, Applicants have amended claim 5 to delete the quotation mark in the last line in claim 5.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67, 69 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. 4,785,157 in view of Blanchard 4,707,909, both are previously cited.

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 20 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Basseches et al. 3,148,129 in view of Poisel 4,485,370, Mochizuki 4,533,935, previously applied, and Lerner 5,167,935, newly cited.

The Examiner rejected claims 49-50, 66 and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Basseches et al. 3,148,129 in view of Poisel as applied to claims 16, 20, 23-24 above, and further in view of Mochizuki 4,533,935, Gofuku et al. 4,785,157 and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, previously cited.

The Examiner rejected claim 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable

over Gofuku et al. as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Mochizuki et al. 4,533,935 and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, previously applied.

The Examiner rejected claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al., as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Background of the invention of Gofuku et al. 4,785,157.

The Examiner rejected claims 51-54 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Wang et al. 5,547,881 and Blanchard 4,707,909, previously cited.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 103 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67, 69 and 77 (Gofuku in view of Blanchard)

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67, 69 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. 4,785,157 in view of Blanchard 4,707,909, both are previously cited.

Applicants respectfully contend that claims 5 and 67 are not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Blanchard, because Gofuku in view of Blanchard does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 5 and 67. For example, Gofuku in view of Blanchard does not teach or suggest the feature: “heating a portion of the surface layer at a heating temperature, ... wherein heating the portion of the surface layer includes directing a beam into the portion of the surface layer such that the beam causes the heating of the portion of the surface layer, and wherein the beam is selected from the group consisting a beam of radiation and a beam of particles”.

The preceding features of claims 5 and 67 require that a portion of the surface layer of the resistor be heated at a heating temperature, wherein the beam causes the heating of the portion of the surface layer of the resistor.

The Examiner argues: “The difference between the references applied above and the instant claim(s) is: Gofuku et al. teaches increasing the resistance in a portion of a resistor by irradiation the surface of resistor with a focused laser beam radiation and oxygen gas and using focused laser beam to cut the material but does not teach that laser beam is well known as a heat source that would heat up the surface of resistor or any material surface to a temperature. However, Blanchard teaches at col. 3, lines 23-36, col. 2, 8-29, laser beam or electron beam radiation is a heat source and using laser beam or electron beam to increases the resistance of a

resistor... It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have recognized that Gofuku et al.'s focused laser beam is a well known heat source that would heat up the surface of a resistor to a higher temperature to increase the resistance of a resistor as taught by Blanchard.” (emphasis added).

In response, Applicants assert that a laser beam focused on a surface layer of a material does not inevitably heat the surface layer of the material, but rather may heat or cool the surface layer (or perhaps not even change the temperature of the surface layer), depending on the material and the properties of the laser beam.

Applicants assert that the Examiner’s citation to Blanchard is not persuasive, because Blanchard’s use of a laser beam to heat the material is specific to the material of doped polysilicon (see Blanchard, col. 2, lines 8-14, 46-51) which is not used by Gofuku. Indeed, Gofuku uses a focused laser beam on a metallic oxide material (specifically, ruthenium oxide) that had been previously irradiated by a laser beam to generate free ruthenium particles within the material (see Gofuku, col. 1, line 53 - col. 2, line 15; col. 3, lines 8-32).

Blanchard does not teach or suggest that a laser beam focused on a surface layer of any material inevitably heats the surface layer of said any material. To reiterate, Blanchard’s teaching of use of a laser beam to heat the material is specific to the material of doped polysilicon which is not used by Gofuku.

Applicants respectively point out that it has been known since 1955 that *laser radiation can cool a material* which the laser radiation strikes.

See <http://www.lanl.gov/orgs/pa/science21/LaserCooling.html> (“In 1995, a significant advance in the optical cooling of matter was made at Los Alamos when researchers for the first

time used laser light to cool a solid.”).

See also, http://electron9.phys.utk.edu/optics507/modules/m10/laser_cooling.htm (“Laser cooling and trapping techniques rely on selectively exciting transitions between atomic substates by controlling the polarization, propagation direction, and frequency of the laser light.”).

See also, United States Patent 5,615,558 issued April 1, 1997 to Cornell et al., col. 1, line 65 - col. 2, line 6 (“This invention provides a device and method for cooling solids utilizing laser optics. The device is of solid state construction and can be inexpensively produced. The device includes a crystalline structure which is itself cooled when illuminated with a laser beam of selected frequency by emission of photons of higher energy than photons entering the mechanism, the additional energy being accounted for by process of absorption of thermal phonons from the crystal lattice. ”).

Based on the preceding argument, Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner has not provided credible evidence that allegedly supports the Examiner’s allegation that “Gofuku et al.’s focused laser beam is a well known heat source that would heat up the surface of a resistor to a higher temperature to increase the resistance of a resistor”.

Applicants request that the Examiner provide credible evidence that allegedly demonstrates that Gofuku’s YAG laser beam focused on Gofuku’s ruthenium oxide material (after irradiated by a laser beam to generate free ruthenium particles within the material) actually heats the ruthenium oxide material.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 5 and 67 are not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Blanchard, and that claims 5 and 67 are in condition for allowance. Since claims 10-12, 55-58 and 61-62 depend from claim 5, Applicants contend

that claims 10-12, 55-58 and 61-62 are likewise in condition for allowance. Since claims 69 and 77 depend from claim 67, Applicants contend that claims 69 and 77 are likewise in condition for allowance.

In addition with respect to claim 12, Applicants respectfully contend that Gofuku does not teach the feature: “wherein $F = 1$ ”.

The Examiner argues: “regarding claim 12, F can be equal to 1, when laser beam 6, 7 scans entire surface of resistor layer1, fig. 1.”

In response, Applicants assert that Gofuku does not anywhere teach or suggest that the laser beam 6, 7 scans entire surface of resistor layer1. FIG. 1 most certainly does not disclose that the laser beam 6, 7 scans entire surface of resistor layer1.

Therefore, Gofuku does not teach the preceding feature of claim 12.

In addition with respect to claim 55, Applicants respectfully contend that Gofuku does not teach the feature: “wherein said oxidizing results in a thickness of the oxidized portion of the surface layer being an increasing function of an energy flux of the beam”.

The Examiner argues: “regarding claim 55, wherein the thickness of the oxidized portion of the surface being increasing function of an energy flux of the beam (output power, number of pulses and pulse width, etc), col.6, lines 8-32 and claims 3-5”.

In response, Applicants assert that Gofuku, col.6, lines 8-32 and claims 3-5 does not discuss how the thickness of the oxidized portion of the surface varies with the energy flux of the beam, and most certainly does not teach that the thickness of the oxidized portion of the surface

is an increasing function of an energy flux of the beam.

Therefore, Gofuku does not teach the preceding feature of claim 55.

In addition with respect to claim 58, Applicants respectfully contend that Gofuku does not teach the feature: “wherein the gas is a non-flowing gas” in combination with “wherein the gas includes oxygen-comprising molecules ”.

The Examiner argues: “regarding claim 58, the gas in non-flowing, col. 6, lines 54-60”.

In response, Applicants assert that Gofuku, col.6, lines 41-44 and 54-60 teaches a flowing gas that includes oxygen-comprising molecules (Gofuku, col. 6, lines 58-60: “by **blowing** a neutral gas, a reducing gas or an oxidizing gas onto the surface of the compound-type resistor material 1”).

In addition, Gofuku, col.6, lines 54-57 teaches a non-flowing gas in a fluid-tight sealed vessel, but does not teach that the non-flowing gas in the fluid-tight sealed vessel includes oxygen-comprising molecules.

Therefore, Gofuku does not teach the preceding feature of claim 58.

In addition with respect to claim 77, Applicants respectfully contend that Gofuku does not teach the feature: “wherein said molecularizing results in a thickness of the molecularized portion of the surface layer being an increasing function of an energy flux of the beam”.

The Examiner argues: “Regarding claim 77, controlling the laser beam power (energy), pulse and duration to increase the resistance value, see col. 3, lines 58-68.”

In response, Applicants assert that Gofuku, col.3, lines 58-68 does not discuss how the thickness of the molecularized portion of the surface varies with the energy flux of the beam, and most certainly does not teach that the thickness of the molecularized portion of the surface is an increasing function of an energy flux of the beam.

Therefore, Gofuku does not teach the preceding feature of claim 77.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 16, 20, 23-24 (Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Lerner)

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 20 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Basseches et al. 3,148,129 in view of Poisel 4,485,370, Mochizuki 4,533,935, previously applied, and Lerner 5,167,935, newly cited.

Claim 16

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 16 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, because Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 16. For example, Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner does not teach or suggest the feature: “oxidizing a portion of the surface layer by reacting said portion with the oxygen ions **at a temperature above ambient room temperature** such that an electrical resistance of the resistor is increased” (emphasis added).

The Examiner has not specifically addressed the preceding feature of claim 16.

Perhaps, the Examiner is relying on the Examiner’s allegation in conjunction with claims 5 and 67 that “Gofuku et al.’s focused laser beam is a well known heat source that would heat up the surface of a resistor to a higher temperature to increase the resistance of a resistor”. If so, Applicants refer to Applicants’ arguments *supra* which argued that the Examiner has not provided credible evidence that allegedly supports the Examiner’s allegation that “Gofuku et al.’s focused laser beam is a well known heat source that would heat up the surface of a resistor to a higher temperature to increase the resistance of a resistor”.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 16 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner, and that claim 16 is in

condition for allowance.

Claim 20

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 20 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner, because Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 20. For example, Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner does not teach or suggest the feature: “providing a chemical solution which includes oxygen particles in an oxygen-comprising gas dissolved in the chemical solution **under pressurization**; ... oxidizing a portion of the surface layer of the resistor by chemically reacting the oxygen particles with the portion of the surface layer such that an electrical resistance of the resistor is increased”.

The cites Basseches as the primary reference and Basseches teaches use of an anodization circuit to increase the resistance of a resistor 3 immersed in an electrolytic solution 5.

The Examiner argues that “Lerner teaches at abstract, col. 5, lines 1-65, col. 8, lines 34-43, col. 3, lines 35-47, nitric acid reacting to oxygen under pressurized vessel to produce nitric acid.... It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Basseches et al.'s process by using a nitric acid formed from pressurized oxygen as oxidizing solution as suggested by Lerner because nitric acid reacts with oxygen under pressurized vessel to produce a final product of nitric acid containing pure NO_3 without NO_x .”

In response, Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner’s citation to Lerner, col. 3, lines 36-41 is not persuasive, because Lerner, col. 3, lines 36-41 describes a prior art process in

which a chemical solution which includes oxygen particles dissolved in the chemical solution under pressurization of 50 atmospheres. However, col. 3, lines 41-47 teaches away from the aforementioned prior art process by reciting: “Even under these extreme conditions, four hours were required to complete the reaction. Because of the batch nature of the operation, and the long time for reaction completion, this process is not suitable for continuous NO_x production, i.e., continuous oxidation and absorption and removal of product.”

In further response, Applicants respectfully contend that the Lerner, col. 5, lines 7-31 teaches: “The absorber contains a solution of nitric acid containing nitrous acid.... It has been discovered that by passing the nitric acid/nitrous acid from the absorber to the oxygenation vessel, the treated solution's capacity for NO dissolution in the absorber is remarkably enhanced. Specifically, it has been discovered in the actual , use of the apparatus of this invention that when liquid from an absorber in an NO_x absorption process is treated with oxygen in a closed vessel, and is then returned to the absorber, the absorption of NO, which is normally substantially insoluble, becomes far higher than the absorption of the substantially soluble NO₂, as N₂O₄.”

Therefore, based on Lerner, col. 5, lines 7-31, Lerner does not teach or suggest “a chemical solution which includes oxygen particles in an oxygen-comprising gas dissolved in the chemical solution **under pressurization**” as required by claim 20. Rather, Lerner teaches use of oxygen gas under pressurization to enhance the absorption of NO in an absorber.

In addition, Applicants assert that the Examiner has not provided any motivation for modifying an anodization apparatus through use of such pressurization. More specifically, the Examiner has not provided any motivation for modifying the anodization apparatus of Basseches to have the oxygen-comprising gas dissolved in the electrolytic solution under pressurization in

the anodization apparatus. The Examiner has not provided evidence that the anodization apparatus of Basseches would work more effectively to justify the added expense and complexity of having the oxygen-comprising gas dissolved in the electrolytic solution under pressurization. Moreover, there is no evidence in the prior art of enablement of such pressurization in an anodization apparatus, and it is quite possible that having the oxygen-comprising gas dissolved in the electrolytic solution under pressurization in Basseches' anodization apparatus would work less effectively or not function properly.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 20 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki and Lerner, and that claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 23 and 24

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 23 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner, because Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner does not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 23. For example, Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner does not teach or suggest the features: “providing a predetermined target resistance in terms of a value R_t and a tolerance ΔR_t for the electrical resistance of the resistor; ... testing the resistor during the oxidizing step to determine whether the electrical resistance of the resistor is within $R_t \pm \Delta R_t$ ”.

The Examiner argues: “Basseches et al. discloses ... testing (monitoring with monitor means 10) the resistor 3 during the oxidizing step to determine the desired resistance has been attained, col. 2, lines 39-55, col. 3, lines 3-60”.

In response, Applicants assert that Basseches, col. 2, lines 39-55 does not disclose the preceding feature of claim 23. Although Basseches teaches continuous monitoring to determine when the desired resistance has been attained, Basseches does not disclose providing a predetermined tolerance ΔR_t and utilizing the predetermined tolerance ΔR_t to determine when the desired resistance has been attained as required by claim 23.

In further response, Applicants assert that Basseches, col. 3, lines 3-60 does not disclose the preceding feature of claim 23. Although Basseches recites in column 5 of Table 1 the percent deviation of the actual resistance value from the desired resistance value, the tabulation in Table 1 reflects the results of the experiment. In contrast, claim 23 requires that **the resistor be tested during the oxidizing step** to determine whether the electrical resistance of the resistor is within $R_t \pm \Delta R_t$, which Basseches does not teach or suggest.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 23 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki and Lerner, and that claim 23 is in condition for allowance. Since claim 24 depends from claim 23, Applicants contend that claim 24 is likewise in condition for allowance.

In addition with respect to claim 24, Applicants respectfully contend that Basseches in view of Mochizuki in view of Poisel, Mochizuki and Lerner does not teach or suggest the following features of claim 24:

“wherein if during the testing step the electrical resistance of the resistor is determined to not be within $R_t \pm \Delta R_t$ then the method further comprises:

iterating such that each iteration of the iterating includes additionally executing the exposing and oxidizing steps and additionally testing the resistor during the oxidizing

step to determine whether R_2'' is within $R_t \pm \Delta R_t$, wherein R_2'' is a latest value of the electrical resistance of the resistor as determined by said testing; and

ending the iterating if R_2'' is within $R_t \pm \Delta R_t$ or if $(R_2'' - R_1)(R_t - R_2'') < 0$, wherein R_1 is a latest value of the determined electrical resistance of the resistor immediately prior to said testing.”

The Examiner has not even addressed the preceding features of claim 24 and has therefore not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness in relation to claim 24.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 49-50, 66, and 76: (Basseches in view of Poisel, and further in view of Mochizuki, Gofuku and Skill Level of an Ordinary Person in the Art)

The Examiner rejected claims 49-50, 66 and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Basseches et al. 3,148,129 in view of Poisel as applied to claims 16, 20, 23-24 above, and further in view of Mochizuki 4,533,935, Gofuku et al. 4,785,157 and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, previously cited.

Claims 49-50

Since claims 49-50 depend from claim 23, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants maintain that claims 49-50 are likewise not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In addition with respect to claims 50, Applicants respectfully contend that Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art person does not teach or suggest the following features of claim 50: “wherein $F = 1$ ” (claim 50).

The Examiner argues: “Gofuku et at. teaches at fig. 1, wherein ... F can be equal to 1, when laser beam 6, 7 scans entire surface of resistor layer 1.”

In response, Applicants assert that Gofuku does not anywhere teach or suggest that the laser beam 6, 7 scans entire surface of resistor layer1. FIG. 1 most certainly does not disclose that the laser beam 6, 7 scans entire surface of resistor layer1.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 49-50 are

not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, and that claims 49-50 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 66

Since claim 66 depends from claim 23, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants maintain that claim 66 is likewise not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 66 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, and that claim 66 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 76

Since claim 76 depends from claim 20, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, and Lerner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants maintain that claim 76 is likewise not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 76 is not unpatentable over Basseches in view of Poisel, Mochizuki, Gofuku, and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, and that claim 66 is in condition for allowance

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claim 59 (Gofuku in view of Mochizuki and Skill Level of an Ordinary Person in the Art)

The Examiner rejected claim 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Mochizuki et al. 4,533,935 and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, previously applied.

Since claim 59 depends from claim 5, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be anticipated by Gofuku, Applicants maintain that claim 59 is likewise not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Mochizuki and skill level of an ordinary person in the art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 59 is not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Mochizuki and skill level of an ordinary person in the art, and that claim 59 is in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claim 60 (Gofuku in view of Background of the Invention of Gofuku)

The Examiner rejected claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al., as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Background of the invention of Gofuku et al. 4,785,157.

Since claim 60 depends from claim 5, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be anticipated by Gofuku, Applicants maintain that claim 60 is likewise not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Background of the invention of Gofuku under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claim 60 is not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Background of the invention of Gofuku, and that claim 60 is in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a): Claims 51-54 and 68 (Gofuku in view of Wang and Blanchard)

The Examiner rejected claims 51-54 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Wang et al. 5,547,881 and Blanchard 4,707,909, previously cited.

The Examiner rejected claims 51-54 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku *et al.* as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Wang *et al.* 5,547,881 and Blanchard 4,707,909, previously applied.

Since claims 51-54 depend from claim 5, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be anticipated by Gofuku, Applicants maintain that claims 51-54 are likewise not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Wang and Blanchard under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Since claim 68 depends from claim 67, which Applicants have argued *supra* to not be anticipated by Gofuku, Applicants maintain that claim 67 is likewise not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Wang and Blanchard under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In addition, Applicants respectfully contend that Gofuku in view of Wang and Blanchard does not teach or suggest the following features of claims 51-54, and 68:

“wherein the beam is the beam of particles” (claim 51);

“wherein the beam is the beam of particles is a beam of electrons” (claim 52);

“wherein the beam is the beam of particles is a beam of protons” (claim 53);

“wherein the beam is the beam of particles is a beam of electrons” (claim 54); and

“wherein the molecules at the molecular concentration consist of nitrogen-comprising

molecules at the nitrogen concentration” (claim 68); and

The Examiner argues: “Gofuku et al. teaches increasing the resistance in a portion of a resistor with laser beam radiation and oxygen gas but does not teach using electron beam or ion beam and using nitrogen gas. However, Wang teaches at col.4, lines 1-17, using ion beam radiation and nitrogen to change the resistivity of a resistor. And, Blanchard teaches at col. 3, lines 23-36, using electron beam radiation to change the resistivity of an resistor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above references' teachings with ion beam or electron beam and/or nitrogen to change the resistivity because ion beam or electron beam would react with the resistor so that the resistivity is altered.”

In response, Applicants maintain that the Examiner’s argument (i.e., it is obvious “to change the resistivity ... so that the resistivity is altered”) is circular reasoning and thus not persuasive.

In addition with respect to claim 53, neither Wang nor Banchard teach that the beam of particles is a beam of protons.

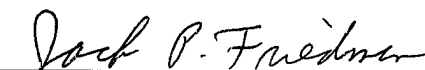
In addition with respect to claim 68, Wang, col.4, lines 1-17 teaches that the beam of particles is a beam of nitrogen ions, rather than a beam of nitrogen-comprising molecules as claimed.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that claims 51-54 and 68 are not unpatentable over Gofuku in view of Wang and Blanchard, and that claims 51-54, and 68 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0457 (IBM).

Date: 06/29/2007


Jack P. Friedman
Reg. No. 44,688

SCHMEISER, OLSEN & WATTS
22 Century Hill Drive - Suite 302
Latham, New York 12110
(518) 220-1850
(518) 220-1857 Facsimile
Email: jfriedman@iplawusa.com